

**Lez** has done lots of music and art again this year.

The only new instrument this year is a double reeded Armenian duduk, from the oboe family.

Lez has played about 20 concerts this year. A highlight was playing (bassoon) with Bardi Orchestra - a massive orchestra and chorus - Holst's Planets, magical!

Lez painted a picture a day in September, as you do.

Lez has completed a project to refit her room, better supporting her art and music.

Lez's boots disintegrated while we were out and about.

**Andrew** has had Covid and 2 chesty colds. Andrew has joined Melton Mowbray (community) orchestra and played in 2 concerts and has gone to some Melton Mowbray folk "sessions". Went to a violin masterclass in Cornwall. Is playing theremin – a 1930's type of electronic instrument. Is using a more modern pre-owned Apple tablet for reading/displaying music, meaning that typically no paper sheet music is required. Andrew had a music stand explode and fail.

Andrew has been sketching at Burghley House and Garden of Surprises.

Andrew is now retired from work and has a state pension. HMRC have accepted that Andrew is no longer self-employed. Homemade greengage jam was fun. Nom nom.

A little cycling, less than 100 miles this year. Had an overnight fire evacuation in the wet at a conference in Swanwick. Note to self, identify the fire assembly point before bed.

**We** have done multiple decluttering tip trips this year. Only one (metal) paint tin burst. The local air ambulance has taken much; some has happily sold. Charity shops do not accept cushions without fire labels, who knew? There have been several tasty batch-cooking weekends, stored in the freezers.

We went to Malvern Winds this year. A week with fellow musicians is wonderful.

We didn't go to Eastbourne, rather had a week in Suffolk in an old independent chapel - with wonderful acoustics – and were able to play to our hearts content.

We were with Nanette and Grayhame at New Year, and celebrated Chloe and Michael's wedding in Spring. Had an anniversary meal at Hitchen's Barn Oakham.

**Olie Cat** is 15. She has had two "demats" this year as she is less able to properly groom herself.

**At Home** we have WiFi 7 (giving improved connectivity/speed). Andrew has stopped random rotary phone 'bonging' in windy and wet conditions by properly terminating a copper cable. EE had us temporarily hosting a public WiFi network. We have downgraded all 'pewters to w11. The village had the bus service reinstated, useful as Andrew now has a bus pass. We now have a water softener and a sink in the downstairs lav. The kerosene heating now has WiFi valve control. We are hanging lots of pictures. Coffee grounds make firelighters! I've had to replace a Mazda 2D compact fluorescent lamp from 1995. We have the same cars, the Smart had squeaky brakes, and the Suzuki had a new clutch with flywheel (a warranty replacement).

There are several 2025 pictures overleaf.

With our love and best wishes

The image shows two handwritten signatures. The first signature, on the left, is written in a cursive script and appears to be 'Lez'. The second signature, on the right, is also in a cursive script and appears to be 'Andrew'.



2025 on the Smartie. Lez's disintegrated boot. A painted Leaf. Lez and Andrew dressed smartly.



Lez's room. Olie cat on her chair. Oundle Manure Merchant sign.



Plums lined up to make jam. Jam making on the stove. Improvisation masterclass musicians.



Poorly cable. Lez, Hitchen's Barn. Lez, Malvern Winds, introducing music. Lamp, Burghley House.